



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 13, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: September 12, 2004  
CWP WA-CW3704

## Harvest of Sweet Corn in Full Swing Early Fall Rains Hamper Some Crops

### Field Crops

Rainfall stopped harvest operations in several locations again this week, as farmers were trying to beat the earlier than normal fall rains. Harvest of silage corn and sweet corn was underway, with reports of high yields and excellent quality reported in one county. Winter wheat began to emerge with a few producers needing to reseed after earlier rains. Producers began to do field work in preparation of planting the next crop.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 18% poor, 35% fair, and 45% good. With the rains and cool weather, pastures continued to green up, with fall grazing conditions expected to be better than the past few years. Dairy producers pastured cows on rapidly growing forage fields. Some livestock producers anticipated taking a third cutting of forage for silage due to the tremendous growth in fields that would normally be dormant this time of year.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Skagit Island and San Juan Counties reported possible losses to beet seed crops. Carrot, onion, and radish seed harvest neared completion. Pumpkin growers in Thurston County expressed concern that pumpkins ripened so early, they may be vulnerable to premature decay. Grapes, apples, late stone fruit, and hops were being harvested. Turf grass growers benefitted from ideal growing conditions. Christmas tree growers in Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties reported strong demand from wholesale buyers for Noble and Grand Firs. Potato diggers sat idle due to the rains, and many fields were saturated. In Skagit County, crop losses were reported in cauliflower, broccoli, and cucumbers due to long standing water in fields from previous rains. Flower bulb growers were concerned about finishing fall planting prior to winter conditions.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.8
Last Week	6.4

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	22	71	5
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	46	32	1
Subsoil	4	30	66	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	47	39	0
Irrigation Water	0	8	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	0
Hay & Roughage	0	4	96	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	99	98	100	98
Winter Wheat Planted	28	21	42	43
Winter Wheat Emerged	13	0	0	11
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	98	100	100
Barley Harvested	100	97	100	99
Potatoes Harvested	46	45	48	43
Corn Silage Harvested	20	13	17	23
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	41	35	51	28
Dry Peas Harvested	98	98	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	98	98	95	97

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	2	9	87	2
Corn	0	0	4	94	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	9	88	3

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Sweet corn harvest began with early reports of both high yields and excellent quality. The heavy rainfall of the past several weeks had some growers concerned that harvest conditions may be less than ideal with muddy fields. Asian pear growers continued to compete with yellow jackets for ripe fruit. Dairy producers were pasturing cows on rapidly growing forage fields. Christmas tree growers reported strong demand from wholesale buyers for both Noble and Grand fir. The combination of warm temperatures and heavy rainfall has resulted in a total “greening” of the rural landscape, with rapid growth of pastures and hayfields. This is totally opposite of a normal year in which arid conditions usually prevail during the month of September. Home gardeners were enjoying breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus featuring tomatoes in an attempt to keep up with prolific bearing plants.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Harvesting of silage corn and sweet corn was in full swing as farmers were trying to beat the earlier than normal fall rains. With the cool, wet weather, pastures continued to green up.

**Pierce/South King:** The weather conditions continued to remain favorable for crop production in the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** Rain was received during the week. There were possible losses to beet seed crops.

**Skagit:** Rainfall halted harvest operations again. Potato diggers were sitting idle, and many fields were saturated. Growers were reporting crop losses in cauliflower, broccoli, and cucumbers due to long-standing water in fields from previous rain. Flower bulb growers were concerned about finishing fall planting prior to the onset of winter conditions.

**Snohomish/N. King:** The week was fairly dry with some heavy rains over the weekend. Temperatures were below normal for this time of the year. Pastures were growing well, and corn and vegetable harvest continued. Some apples were being harvested. Grass silage was still being made, but hay making was a real gamble with the intermittent showers.

**Snohomish/N. King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Autumn weather was with us most of the week. Mornings were cooler and wetter with more fog than in past weeks. Corn and grass silage harvest continued. Vegetable and fruit crops were abundant and kept farmers and home gardeners very busy. Pastures were showing some new growth after recent rain and warm afternoons.

**Thurston:** Warm temperatures combined with adequate soil moisture resulted in the rapid growth of pastures and hayfields. Some livestock producers anticipate taking a third cutting of forage for silage due to the tremendous growth in fields that would normally be totally dormant due to the dry conditions. Turfgrass growers also benefitted from the same conditions which were ideal for grass growth. Christmas tree growers continued to report strong demand from wholesale buyers for both Noble and Grand fir, with some early reports of limited availability of larger sized trees. Pumpkin growers expressed concern that early ripening pumpkins may be more vulnerable to premature decay. Organic truck gardeners continued to report excellent produce sales at the Olympia Farmer’s Market. Home gardeners were involved in a prolific harvest of tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet corn, and acorn squash. Yellow jackets continued feasting on overripe fruit.

**Whatcom:** Potato harvest began. Corn silage harvest continued. Rain showers were received on two days during the week. Temperatures were in the mid to high 60's.

## Central

**Benton:** Grapes, apples, late stone fruit, and hops were being harvested. Warm days and cool nights were helping color development.

**Grant:** Fifty percent of the fourth cutting of alfalfa was on the ground. Alfalfa seed harvest was completed. Carrot, onion, and radish seed harvest neared completion. Some Golden Delicious and Gala apple harvests were underway. Pear harvest was underway. Soft fruit harvest neared completion.

**Okanogan:** The County Fair just finished.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Apple harvest was underway. Golden Delicious apple harvest began. Winter wheat harvest was winding down. Some spring grains haven't yet been harvested.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were from 4 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal, with 0.01 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat seeding was nearly completed. Soil moisture conditions remained mostly adequate and about 50 percent of the winter wheat seed had emerged.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Wheat began to emerge, with a few producers finding the need to reseed after the earlier rains.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Most producers completed harvest. Sprout damage due to the rains during harvest was minimal. Some producers began planting winter wheat. Rain was needed in some areas for proper stand establishment. Pastures and rangeland need rain for fall growth.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat seeding was nearly complete by the end of the week. Soil moisture conditions remained mostly adequate, and about 50 percent of the winter wheat seeded was emerged.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain was received in some parts of the county which should improve pasture and seeding conditions. Grain harvest was virtually complete, and winter seeding was progressing steadily.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A week of fairly good weather allowed most producers to complete harvest. A small amount of wheat, barley, and lentils remained to be harvested. Rain on the weekend halted any harvest. A good number of producers were doing fieldwork in preparation for planting the next crop. Grazing conditions were looking better and fall grazing should be better than in the past few years.

**Walla Walla:** Cooler, shorter days made it more difficult for those harvesting to finish. Rains from the previous week brought good emergence of weeds and regrowth. Fall work was well underway in some areas of the county. Deep furrow seeding was in full swing in the northern area of the county.

**Whitman:** Harvest was nearly complete. Producers turned their attention to fall tillage and preparation for seeding winter wheat. Cool, wet conditions were making seeding conditions ideal. It has been several years since the Palouse has had a cool, wet September.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: [nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wa@nass.usda.gov)

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

September 13, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	43	70	60	2	70	7	8	-1	0.94	0.52	4	1.36	0.68	200	7
Everett	50	71	61	3	79	12	12	0	0.50	0.01	3	0.89	0.10	113	5
Hoquiam	46	68	59	-2	65	-12	5	-11	0.65	-0.02	5	0.74	-0.34	69	7
Kelso	48	77	62	1	89	7	19	-4	0.42	-0.10	2	0.57	-0.30	66	4
Olympia	42	76	60	1	70	4	7	-4	1.15	0.66	4	1.29	0.50	163	6
Sea-Tac	52	73	62	0	85	1	15	-6	1.50	1.08	4	1.69	1.01	249	5
Shelton	44	75	61	-2	76	-5	10	-12	0.99	0.44	4	1.04	0.15	117	5
Tacoma	45	75	61	0	79	3	12	-4	0.92	0.50	4	1.14	0.42	158	6
Vancouver	46	78	64	3	97	16	27	6	0.15	-0.29	1	0.19	-0.55	26	4
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	41	84	64	4	100	23	30	6	0.08	-0.06	2	0.10	-0.13	43	3
Stampede Pass	43	68	55	5	35	10	0	-3	1.79	1.06	3	3.08	1.88	257	7
Wenatchee	51	82	66	1	116	5	46	0	0.10	-0.01	2	0.10	-0.11	48	2
Yakima AP	40	84	63	1	93	3	24	-8	0.01	-0.10	1	0.01	-0.20	5	1
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	42	79	62	3	82	15	16	-3	0.37	0.09	2	0.37	-0.11	77	2
Deer Park	35	76	59	-3	62	-17	5	-23	0.77	0.56	3	0.81	0.45	225	4
Spokane AP	46	77	62	1	83	4	16	-12	0.16	-0.05	1	0.17	-0.19	47	2
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	45	81	65	-3	104	-15	34	-18	0.11	0.04	1	0.11	-0.01	92	1
Moses Lake	41	83	64	-3	101	-18	33	-19	0.03	-0.04	1	0.03	-0.09	25	1
Quincy	48	82	65	2	105	5	35	-3	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.24	0	0
Ritzville	44	81	61	-2	80	-6	13	-17	0.08	-0.06	2	0.08	-0.13	38	2
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	45	88	67	-4	121	-22	51	-21	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.16	0	0
Pasco	42	88	66	-1	114	-2	44	-7	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.17	0	0
Pullman	38	77	59	-1	67	-5	6	-17	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.36	0	0
Whitman Miss.	39	86	64	2	103	10	34	-1	0.01	-0.13	1	0.01	-0.23	4	1
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	41	79	61	-2	82	-7	19	-13	0.35	0.07	1	0.43	-0.05	90	3
Lewiston ID	51	86	68	2	124	9	54	2	0.02	-0.19	1	0.03	-0.33	8	2

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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